

## Inside:

Changing rooms  
The time of their lives  
Mexican orphanage update  
News from our AGM  
Canal challenge  
Project gets new home  
A bold undertaking  
Flying the flag  
Life, the universe, and Toc H

Page 2  
Page 3  
Page 4  
Page 5  
Pages 6 & 7  
Page 9  
Page 10  
Page 11  
Page 12





# Students give centre a facelift

A team of international students from Italy, Holland, Germany and Austria have brightened up the Toc H Community Centre in Leigh, giving it a colourful new make-over.

The eight students - who gave up two months of their own holiday - got involved in the project after answering an appeal by Toc H International for help in completing work programmes over the summer.

The centre - which is dedicated to former Toc H man Albert Tattum - has had the outside cleared of debris and cleaned up, while the inside has been brightly decorated throughout.

Four colourful murals depicting different aspects of Leigh life have been added to the walls.

The students also cleared the back room and worked on various stage settings.

The centre is owned by Toc H and supported by local ward councillors through their Brighter Borough Fund. Councillor Charles Rigby was on hand to see the transformation.



Councillors Kevin Anderson (left) and Charles Rigby drop in to the Toc H Community Centre to see the work being done by volunteers including Ardeke Aardema (back left) and Marielle Reuser (Photo courtesy of Bolton Evening News)

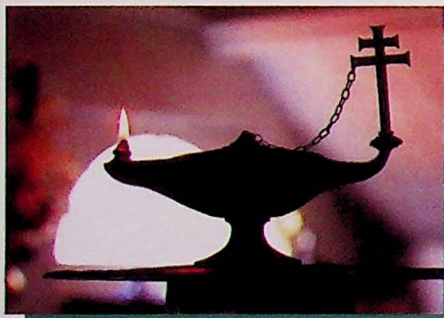
Councillor Rigby said of the students: "They have filled skip upon skip with rubbish, and have done a cracking job. I'm sure the people of Leigh who use the centre would like to thank them for their efforts in their own holidays to help others."

The new-look centre was officially launched in September by the

Mayor, Cllr Brian Jarvis, and the agencies involved were on hand to meet and chat to the public about the development.

The Albert Tattum centre is already bustling with community groups. It hosts youth clubs, Morris dancers, football teams, a drama school and mums and toddlers activities.

## Chain of light starts at Poperinge



Lighting the way: Toc H lamps will be lit all over the world as part of the celebrations

This year the World Chain of Light celebrations will start from the organisation's birthplace, Talbot House in Poperinge.

As always, every Toc H branch and project is invited to join in, either by attending the 24-hour vigil in Poperinge itself, or by lighting lamps locally.

At Talbot House the lamp of maintenance will be kept alight for 24 hours as guests listen to music, sing, pray and give readings. The first ever Chain of Light celebration began in Australia in 1929, and recent years have seen the Chain start from different venues all over the world including India, Zimbabwe and the Millennium Dome in London.

Chief Executive Geoff Smith said: "The celebration is a way of linking us together wherever people are in the

world. It is also a time to remember Toc H, and all the people in the organisation past and present."

Branches are asked to light their lamps at 9pm local time on 11th December, Tubby Clayton's birthday. The lighting will then go west around the world ending the following day, as it began, in Poperinge.

If you are interested in contacting Talbot House regarding the World Chain of Light, you can e-mail [info@talbothouse.be](mailto:info@talbothouse.be), call 00 32 5733 3228, or write to: Poperinge Talbot House, Gasthuisstraat 43, B 8970, Poperinge, Belgium.



# Children get time of their lives at summer camp

Every summer a group of dedicated volunteers give 100 children from the Derby area a holiday they will treasure for the rest of their lives.

Toc H Derby Children's Camp, which was founded in 1924, has run every summer since then with only one gap, volunteer organiser David Lovell told Toc H AGM, for a few years from 1940 when the Home Guard commandeered the camp's tents. (Further details of the AGM are on Page 5).

The 10-day camp gives children aged 9 to 14 a holiday which they would not otherwise have. It's held on a former polo ground and each summer a small town of marquees and smaller tents are put up to house the daily activities, the equipment, the children, and the 50 volunteers and staff who run the camp.

"One of our goals is to make the camp among the children's treasured memories," David said.



Co-volunteer Emma Theaker added: "A lot of the children haven't been to the countryside before. They're entertained throughout the day with walks, treasure hunts, painting, bike riding, and trips out for swimming, canoeing, rock climbing and even a day at Alton Towers."

Emma explained that many of the volunteers - aged from 16 to 60 - return each year to help and are using their own annual leave to do this.

"They're united by a passion for giving the children one of the happiest times of their lives."

The camp costs £20,000 each year and this is found through hunting for grants, looking for sponsorship, and other fund raising.





# Orphanage brings hope of new future

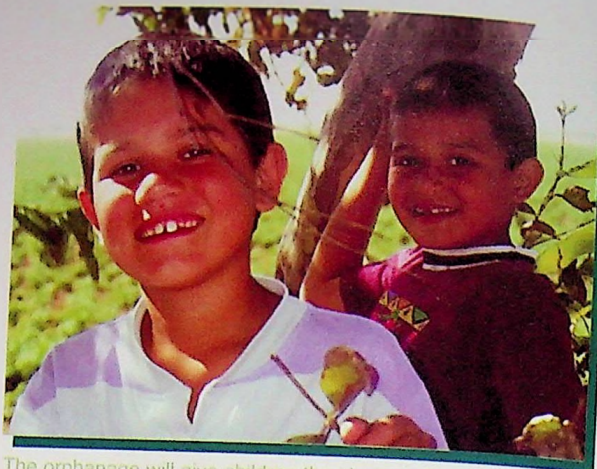
Toc H member Bob Mason and his wife Annette recently wrote to Point 3 updating us on the orphanage they are building in Villa Juarez, Mexico. Here Bob explains his connection with Toc H, and tells us about the progress being made:

In the early 1960s while working in Leicester, I was initiated into the local branch of Toc H. The principles and objectives of Toc H have long been guiding forces in our lives, and I particularly have benefited so much from the counsel and guidance of many members from those early days.

I got involved visiting a few children living at the National Children's Home in Sutton Coldfield, and that was the start of my work with orphans and orphanages.

In early 1964, I emigrated to Canada - meeting Annette on the ship, and marrying her the following year. In 1992 we moved to Mexico to help in a small orphanage with which we'd been involved. Now we spend six months a year here.

Due to contamination, we had to move from our existing location and are now building a new orphanage on a church-operated University campus about 40 miles away.



The orphanage will give children the chance of a bright future

It's been one of the most difficult years yet for the orphanage. Construction is slower than we would have wanted, but moving along, and we can see some real progress. Last year was the wettest we've known in Mexico, which caused considerable delays.

We have a great group of volunteers working with us from all over the world, both short and long term. Without these dedicated individuals the orphanage simply could not operate.

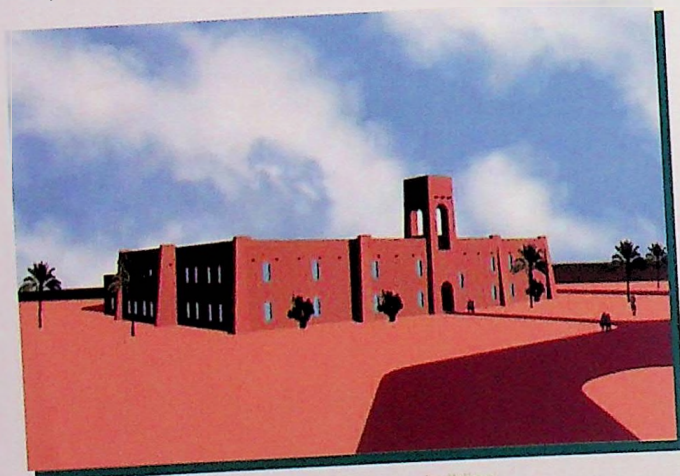
We've had more staffing problems than usual this year, and we're hoping for some long-term volunteers to work with us next season. We want to get the place finished as quickly as possible, and move the children into their new home.

We are able to offer futures to abandoned and abused children, who, without having been at this orphanage, would never have had such opportunities.

Without the help people have given, whether as a regular sponsor, as a donor, as a volunteer, or as a prayer partner, these young people would not have had the chance to be the people they have become, and most would likely have ended up in circumstances similar to those from which they originally came.

Blessings, Peace and Love, from us all.

**Bob & Annette Mason**



Vision of the future: a 3D image of the new building

**Kathleen Webb**  
Greenbank Branch  
NW Region

**Harry Bezzant**  
Cosham & Waterloooville Branch  
SE Region

**Betty Drudge**  
Isle of Wight

## Obituaries

**Nora Matthews**  
Newcastle Staffs Branch  
NW Region

**Doug Goulding**  
SW Region

**Charles J 'Tommy' Trinder**  
WM Region

**Edith Hutchinson**  
Wales

**Adah Tiffany**  
SW Region

**Charles Webb**  
WM Region



# Chance to reflect on 'rich tapestry' of achievements

The 2005 AGM of Toc H was held at the recently refurbished Alison House Talbot Centre in Cromford near Matlock. Those who attended had the opportunity to see the updated facilities and to enjoy the peaceful grounds on a sunny, warm day.

The meeting was chaired by Sir Roger Jackling, Chair of the Toc H Trustees, with Chief Executive Geoff Smith reporting on the year 2003-2004.

Geoff said: "There is a rich tapestry of achievement by staff and members of Toc H to report on for the year in question - and we are always a year into the past with an AGM of course.

"We are a varied organisation with a huge amount going on - there are 46 activities

featured on the new Participation website alone. All this, and the centres in which Toc H work is focused, is drawn together by the twin threads of hospitality and friendship which started in Poperinge so many years ago.

"These are just some of the achievements which have delighted me:

- The Friends of Khasdobir group remaining a part of Toc H.
- The 'Tales from Toc H' shop opening in Rhyl, selling books, serving coffee, and providing support for the homeless and lonely of the town.
- The annual staff gathering to Belgium, visiting battlefield sites. For all staff there was a shared sense of touching the tap roots of Toc H.

- The launch of 'Toc H Community Builders'.

"All our projects are moving, like Toc H Community Builders, toward becoming self-sustaining and self-funding."

Geoff also mentioned the Bradford Academy: "It has a curriculum based around citizenship and enterprise. This new venture is a partnership between Toc H and the Diocese of Bradford. The new academy will

have a debating chamber at its centre, symbolising the new teaching methods of the curriculum of this school and its desire to engage with the great issues of the day."

Questions were put about the future of branches and Geoff replied that Toc H was

facing the same difficulties as other membership organisations - people simply didn't join things any more. However, he said: "Membership will continue to be a strong theme and we want to encourage people to join Toc H."

He pledged: "We will support any branch that exists - but we can't keep a branch organisation against the flow of the tide." He added: "We want Toc H to have centres in every region of the country. Our new centres will be the equivalent of Marks for the 21st Century."

Geoff concluded by thanking the staff and Trustees of Toc H for their hard work, especially Margaret Winstanley, honoured in The Times 'Crème' PA of the year awards.



The AGM looked back at some of Toc H's recent highlights including: (clockwise from top left) the success of the Derby children's camp, getting ready for the 'Tales from Toc H' shop, the Community Builders project and Margaret Winstanley's PA of the year runner up award



# Ship ahoy, as Toc H takes



As reported in the last Point 3, this summer saw a month-long canal trip arranged by Toc H. Here Sally Simms, inTOuCH Development Officer in Tunbridge Wells, writes to tell us how it all went, and how the different projects enjoyed the journey.

What a challenge!

Since last September Sally Courtney, Chris Ashley and I have been working extremely hard on this project.

We put together a route, planning the stops, the outings, and the pick-up points, ensuring everyone could get to the canal from wherever they were in the country.

All the projects had a fantastic time. I had the privilege of meeting most of the groups, and seeing people at the beginning and the end of the trip - so I could see for myself how much they enjoyed it!



**Project 1: Family Project, East End of London - Maggie Gittleson July 1-3 Leighton Buzzard - Stoke Bruerne**

This project not only had people from Maggie's group but also staff from the Mentoring project. They all had a great time and enjoyed the opportunity to get out of the city for a while. One comment on the return to London was: "Look at all the concrete!"

**Project 2: Croydon Refugee Centre, Croydon - Rimma Senotrusov July 3-6 Stoke Bruerne - Long Itchington**

The outstanding feeling from the group on this trip was that having worked together for over a year and become good friends, they became best friends.

**Project 3: Leicester Refugee Centre - Kevin Ncube July 6-8 Long Itchington - Hatton Top Lock**

For many of this group it was a break from city life, but also a first true holiday since coming to this country. It gave an opportunity to see a bit of the countryside and we heard many stories of torture, rejection and lost families. This group was an inspiration to us all.

**Project 4: Friendship Circle, Rhyl House - Margaret Williams July 8-10 Hatton Top Lock - Bournville**

I have heard reports of friendship and bonding back from this trip. People used the time to relax, and talk freely of their stresses and concerns. Again, seeing a different countryside lifted spirits.

**Project 5: Tunbridge Wells Afternoon Club - Sally Simms July 11-13 Bournville - Wednesfield Church**





# s to the waterways

This was our veterans' group. Although small in number, it was a truly memorable weekend. For two ladies who grew up together this was a lifetime ambition they thought they would never be able to fulfil.

**Project 6: Woodgate Valley, St Francis Nursery - Tracy Goodhead July 14 Travelling on the canal around Wednesfield area.**

This was a completely manic day! We were rushing up and down the motorway collecting and returning bus loads of pre-school kids to have a trip on the boat. With the support of Chris Williams we managed to give 40 kids a memorable experience.

**Project 7: Mentoring Scheme, Cheshire - Richard Copestick July 18-21 Farmers Bridge - Atherstone Top Lock**

Richard brought a group down from the Cheshire Mentoring team and they all thoroughly enjoyed their time on the boat - even having to find a hairdressers so that hair washes could be done!

**Project 8: ADHD family support group, Tunbridge Wells - Sally Simms July 22-24 Atherstone Top Lock- Braunston Marina**

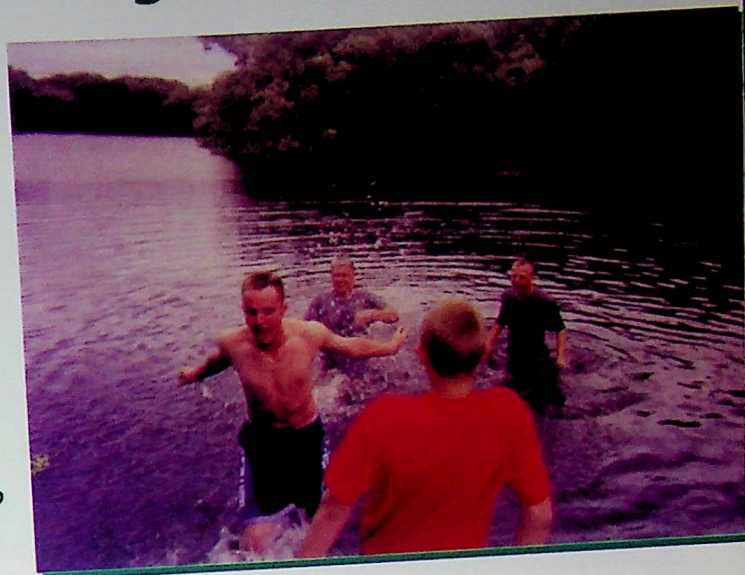
This was an opportunity to do some residential training with a couple of the support group parents. All the kids got into how the boat worked and were very helpful with the locks. One of the things that stuck out is the effect the canal life has on hyperactive children - there was a real calming influence.

**Project 9: Somali Children's Project Ilford - Chris Stoneham July 25-27 Braunston Marina - Stoke Bruerne**

The family that came consisted of two parents and six children. It was obviously a well-earned break and a time for the family to experience something new. A local youth worker also joined us, and I will be contacting him to come and share some of the work we are doing in Tunbridge Wells.

**Project 10: Home Educators Group, Tunbridge Wells - Kim Dale July 27-29 Stoke Bruerne- Leighton Buzzard**

This group made its own way to the boat: two families whose mothers are co-ordinators of the Home Educators club in Tunbridge Wells. This weekend enabled them all to have a nice holiday and the mums also made use of the time for planning the club's future.





# Building for the future of Toc H

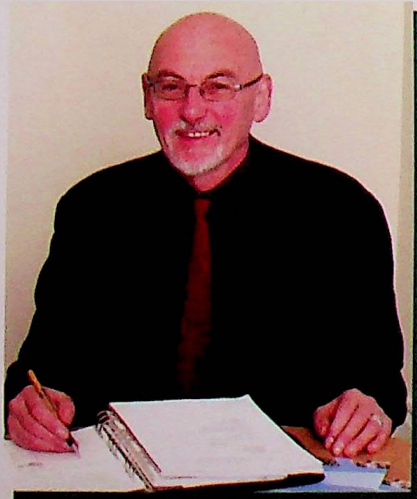
Following the AGM and the work of the Trustees over the past year it is time for Toc H to look forward.

My aim is that by 2007 we will have moved from our present historic structure with members and branches to a network of Talbot Centres around the country with at least one centre in each Government Region.

Recently Toc H won a tender to run a community centre in the Easton District of Bristol. The press release from Bristol City Council made the following observation:

'The panel was very impressed by Toc H's wealth of experience in running community buildings and projects across the UK. Toc H offered the benefit of a solid and robust management structure, combined with a clear commitment to local participation and decision-making.

'The panel felt that Toc H was in the best position to take on the challenge of running the Centre and providing services and activities for local people. At the same time, Toc H's organisational size and experience will allow them to benefit from economies of scale and to apply for funding from a wide range of Government and charitable sources'



inside the new Bristol centre

Easton resident and panel member Azmina Mitha said:

"I think Toc H will be good for Bristol. They will build capacity at Easton Community Centre and be beneficial for the residents of Easton. I was happy to be part of the process and think we made the right decision."

Local ward member, Councillor John Kiely, was also part of the selection panel. He said:

"I set all the applicants two tests, that they were financially competent to run the Community Centre and that they would embrace resident involvement. Toc H passed both with flying colours.

"We were all impressed with the professional approach taken by Toc H, and we felt that being a national organisation with other facilities around the country gave the local community an added bonus.

"We were also pleased to hear their plans for community involvement in the running of the community centre and that they would want to keep and support the existing tenants and users."

I see this development of centres, operating as locations for community

action, volunteering and the provision of local services in partnership with communities, as the key to the future re-invention of Toc H from Marks, to Branches, to Projects. We have - as a movement - over 90 years continually reinvented ourselves.

In Toc H from 2005 onwards, Talbot Centres will be the 'Marks' for the 21st Century. They will be centres for volunteering and social action, they will help build better communities and will reflect the commitment to hospitality and friendship which has its roots in a tall white house in Gasthuisstraat in Poperinge and which continues in Toc H to this day.

There are examples of this new generation of Talbot Centres in Croydon, Tower Hamlets, Birmingham, Bradford, Leigh, Ilford, Leicester and now Bristol. Each supports a regional network of other local centres.

We need now to weave this network into a strong tapestry of Toc H activity and commitment as we build for the future.

Geoffrey Smith



# New home for Leicester project

With a number of Toc H residential and non-residential buildings in need of maintenance and development, a new arm 'Community Builders' has been set up to deliver those services, while also building a profile in the wider, external market.

Toc H's 'Community Builders' team is in the process of renovating St. Andrew's Vicarage, Leicester, so that the destitute refugees and asylum seekers project can move from their current home at St. Margaret's day centre.

For the past two years, Toc H has been operating out of St. Margaret's. Essential food and toiletries have been donated as well as help in finding accommodation, legal issues and generally easing the cultural transition of moving to a new country.

Toc H Outreach worker Kevin Ncube said: "We're extremely grateful to St. Margaret's for everything they've done, but it was a temporary fixture. The new base at St. Andrew's will be a permanent move for the project."

The team is renovating the property in three phases; phase one consisted of the essential repairs - lighting, roofing etc, phase two refurbishing



Measuring up: Chris Ashley of the Toc H Community Builders team

and phase three giving the vicarage a clean up and new coat of paint.

Kevin said: "There are a number of options in how the new space will be used. We will have office room for the Outreach workers, a kitchen to offer hot meals, places to store and distribute clothing, and we will look in to the possibilities of having a crèche and IT room."

The team now hopes work will be finished for a launch early next year, when officials from the region, MPs and the public will be invited to see what goes on at the centre.

Area manager Charmaine Odusina and Kevin are looking forward to involving Toc H members in the area to support the development of the project in its new location. Please e-mail [charmaineo@toch.org.uk](mailto:charmaineo@toch.org.uk), call 0208 649 7937 or write to Charmaine Odusina, 23-24 Ramsey Court, Church St, Croydon, CR0 1RF for more.

Kevin can be contacted at [kevin@toch.org.uk](mailto:kevin@toch.org.uk) or at St. Margaret's Day Centre, c/o St. Margaret's Church, St. Margaret's Way, Leicester, LE1 5DE.

## Celebrating diversity of cultures

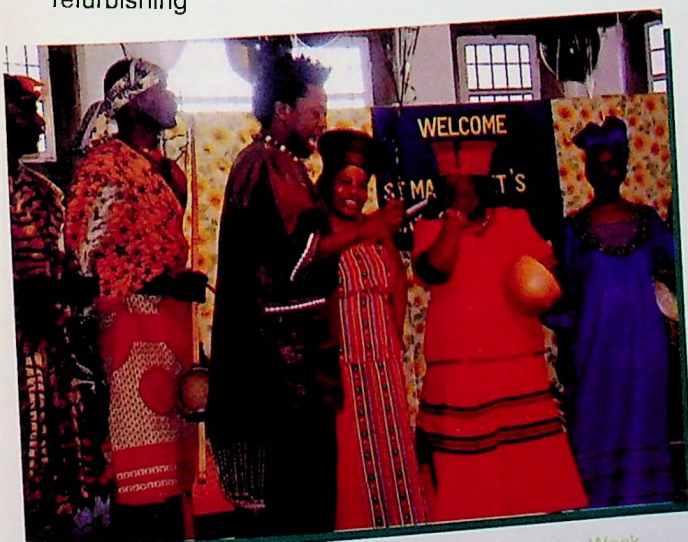
The Toc H Leicester project organised a showcase of cultures from across the globe in celebration of Refugee Week 2005.

The event, which attracted over 100 visitors, used dance, music, fashion, food and poetry to represent global cultures.

The highlight of the event was a fashion show which saw refugees and asylum seekers model fashions from Leicester's 'African Pride Boutique'.

Toc H Leicester outreach worker Kevin Ncube used his experience of working on television shows in Zimbabwe to arrange and choreograph the show.

Kevin said: "The aim of the event was to celebrate diversity and encourage social cohesion by breaking myths that exist about asylum seekers and refugees and their contribution to the community. I would like to thank Canon Barry Naylor and everyone at St. Margaret's for their efforts."



Kevin, third left, celebrates with performers as part of Refugee Week



## New members

**David Hill**, a retired history teacher from Macclesfield, hopes to strengthen his connection with Poperinge through membership of Toc H. David, who taught history at Kings School in Macclesfield for thirty five years, works as a battlefield tour guide for NST Travel Group which organises educational trips for school children.

**Ann Frewer** from the South East region has joined to forge links between Toc H and her 'Group 88' and 'Double O Five' social clubs. The groups provide a meeting place and social activities for those bereaved or separated in the 40 to 60 age groups. After losing her husband at age 50, she found there was very little support available for the separated and bereaved in this age group so decided to set one up with Shirley Sayer. Since then the groups have gone from strength to strength helping people to make new friends.

### **Erica Knight**

Weymouth Branch  
SE Region

### **Lynne Weatherly**

High Brooms Branch  
SE Region

### **Eddie Ferrao**

SE Region

### **Colby Bunting**

Wales

### **Georgina Bryson**

SE Region

### **Judy Barker**

Yorkshire Pennine Branch  
NE Region

### **David Hill**

NW Region

### **C Wood**

Scotland

### **Ann Frewer**

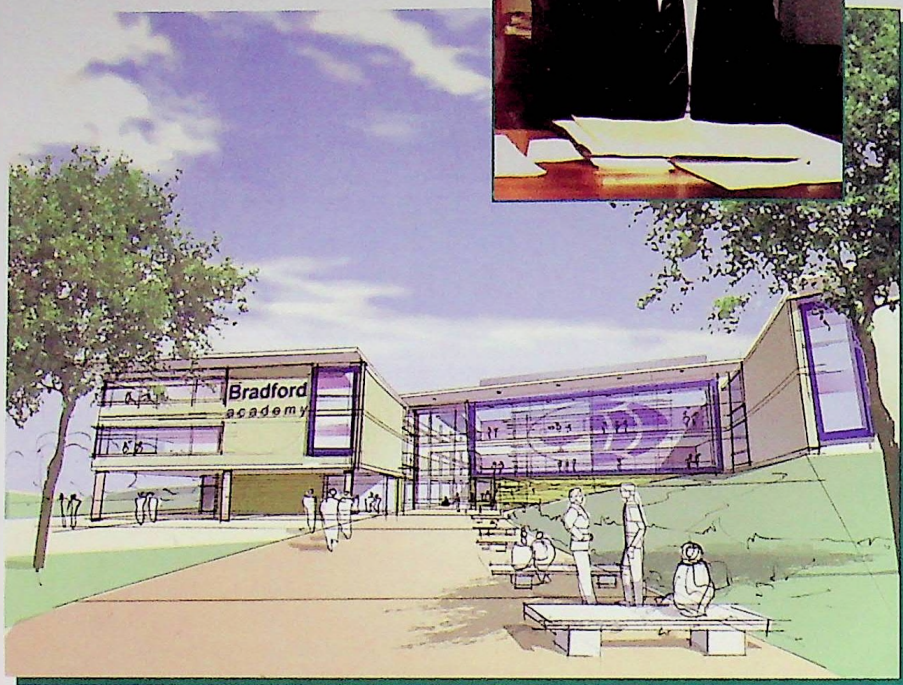
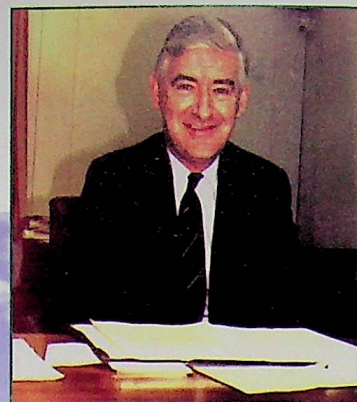
Group Double O Five  
SE Region

### **Captain G Fry**

East Midlands Region

# A bold undertaking

The new Bradford Academy, which will open its doors to students in 2007, has appointed a chairman of governors, Mr Albert Price.



Bradford Academy will open in September 2007. Inset: Albert Price

As one of the sponsors of the Academy, Toc H is at the forefront of the government-backed campaign which seeks to encourage faith groups to sponsor specialist schools.

Before his retirement, Albert was the Director of the Catholic Education Service in England and Wales, working with over 2,000 Catholic schools. Prior to that, he worked for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of schools before the organisation became Ofsted. This kind of experience made him an ideal candidate for the role.

Chief Executive of Toc H Geoff Smith said: "We're delighted to welcome Albert to Toc H and look forward to working with him more. His experience within education gives him unrivalled insight and experience of the sector and the Bradford Academy project. It was also important for us to choose a candidate with knowledge of Toc H, and Albert was able to demonstrate his understanding of the organisation, our beliefs and objectives."

Albert said: "I think it is hugely important to have churches and associated charities involved in education. Their presence enriches the whole of the public education service. This project and the specialism of the Bradford Academy are a crucial contribution to the education of young people from all cultures and beliefs at this time."

## Enterprise

The board of governors has already been busy, meeting with architects and construction officials, and is currently searching for the right candidate to become the Academy's first principal.

Mr Price added: "The specialism, 'citizenship and enterprise', of the Bradford Academy is in my opinion the most challenging issue in society and in education. Enterprise means 'a bold undertaking', which this new venture certainly is."



# Keeping the Toc H flag flying

Parkhurst Women - the last remaining Toc H branch on the Isle of Wight - is one of many groups within the organisation who have been busy celebrating the movement's 90th birthday.



Birthday wishes! Betty Drudge, left, and Beatrice Upton cut the cake

A tea party was held recently at its HQ, and members put on their best dresses to share food and drink, swap stories, read funny poems and play games.

A special Toc H birthday cake was presented to the group, and cut by two of the branch's oldest members, 89-year-old Beatrice Upton and Betty Drudge who was 90. Betty, who had been with the branch over 14 years, died in October.

The celebrations capped a busy period for Parkhurst, who have also been helping to raise money for the 'Schools Under The Sky' Bangladesh project. This teaches basic literacy and numeracy skills to children before they go to government primary schools.

The branch held a coffee morning inviting guests to browse the bric-a-brac, take part in a raffle, and sample home-made cakes. The event raised £355 - £110 of which made from raffling a beautiful doll, hand-made by 90-year-old Mrs Rose Tremain.



The hand-made doll, which raffled for £110

Branch member Jackie Ramage said: "Both events were wonderful occasions and everyone attending had a great time. We're all proud to be keeping the Toc H flag flying in the Isle of Wight!"

## Winsford waltzes to sounds of the past

Toc H Winsford members dusted off their dancing shoes at their recent tea party and young and old alike waltzed and lindy hopped to the sounds of the 1940s.

Young people from the local rural drop-in centre, for those without access to youth clubs, and from the Alpha care leavers drop-In, which runs from the Winsford office, spent the weeks before the dance learning to perform the steps, and attended the event in full 1940s dress.

Beverly Bailey from the Cheshire Mentoring Project said: "One young man dressed up as a member of the

Royal Navy - which brought lots of memories back for the older guests."

The 12 young people helped prepare food for the dance, and spent time chatting to the older guests about wartime experiences, both at home and abroad.

The expected 40 or so people soon doubled as the activities - including a raffle and bingo - drew people in.

Beverly said: "We wanted to create an enjoyable social event, with an authentic atmosphere with sights and sounds of the 1940s post-war celebrations for all ages.

"The day was an enormous success, and we received lots of positive letters



The Mayor of Vale Royal chats to guests at the Winsford tea party

and feedback. Some of the older generation with a negative image of young people have had their views completely changed. We plan to host a similar event in December."



A column in which we ask people connected with Toc H to reflect on...

# Life, Toc H, the universe and all that stuff!

Judy Barker is Co-ordinator at the Park Talbot Centre in Bradford. She retired last year after a career in teaching which took her full circle from Yorkshire to Malaysia, Africa, and back to Yorkshire via London. She says: "I enjoyed working in different types of schools, teaching children from many different cultures and backgrounds. I was pleased to end my career in South Yorkshire where I was head of a primary school for many years."



Judy Barker  
People regularly ask me 'What is Toc H and what does it do?'

## How did you first become involved in Toc H and why?

Although I was looking forward to my retirement last year, I knew that when I finally finished work, I didn't want to sit at home doing nothing. I applied to Reach, a charity that matches your interests and experiences with organisations that need volunteers for specific jobs. Toc H were looking for a co-ordinator in Bradford. I had heard of Toc H long ago, and knew it to be a very worthy organisation. The work sounded as if it could be interesting. As a school head, I had developed skills in personnel management and human understanding which I felt could be of use to an organisation such as Toc H. I contacted them, and have not looked back since!

## Present role in Toc H

I act as Co-ordinator at the Park

Talbot Centre in West Bowling, Bradford. The building, formerly a Methodist church, was acquired by Toc H a couple of years ago. After several meetings and visits with Toc H managers Cormac McCarthy and Francis Braganza, I started working there in February this year. I go to the centre two days a week, liaise with the various groups who use the centre, and manage the general running of the place. In July all the groups who use the centre helped run a Community Open Day which brought together the Afro-Caribbean, Asian, and white English communities in the area.

## What are your main interests?

I particularly enjoy walking, especially in the Yorkshire Dales and Pennines. I love music, particularly classical and vocal. Now that I have retired, I am beginning to explore my interest in photography further, and bird watching. I also enjoy reading.

## What I hope to do in Toc H

I feel that I have joined Toc H at an exciting time of renewal and expansion. I think that the centre in Bradford, in a deprived and multicultural area, is ideally placed to become a focal point in the community, where a range of activities encompassing all ages will help fulfil some of the wants and needs of the people. At present there are several groups for parents and toddlers, English classes for Asian ladies, and dance groups for children through to adults. I hope to get funding to set up other groups, including tea dances for the older folk, and support groups for adults. Internally, the building needs lots of fresh paint, a new kitchen, and new floor coverings in the small rooms, so there is plenty of work to get on with.

## In what ways can Toc H encourage new membership?

By constantly advertising the good work that goes on in Toc H at local and regional level, as well as nationally, using all forms of the media, and through personal contact. People regularly ask me what Toc H is and what it does. It takes a while to explain.

# The new battlefield at Alison House - organic trenches

Toc H traditions of friendship and teamwork were demonstrated at a recent Veterans' Project when young and old joined together digging a trench behind Alison House - establishing an organic garden to produce fruit and vegetables for the kitchen.

Toc H members - three veterans in

their 80s - came together with four youngsters aged between 18 and 20 from the Toc H Cheshire Mentoring Scheme.

One of the participants, Marjorie Marsh, said: "The friendship we experienced during the week was the old spirit of Toc H that I've known all my life. It hasn't died, although it

has been brought up to date, through working together and showing respect for one another."

Now that the hard digging has been done, the organic garden is ready to be stocked with plants. In time the garden and the trench will both become features of interest to Alison House's visitors.